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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,535	01/24/2006	Gert Driesbeke	003D.0066.U1(US)	4250

29683 7590 01/14/2008
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EXAMINER	
HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2833	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/14/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/538,535

Applicant(s)

DROESBEKE ET AL.

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/10/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowen et al. 5,085,596. Regarding claims 1 and 17, Bowen et al. discloses a cable connector for a plurality of cables comprising a cover 24,22 and at least one connecting means 182 for electrically connecting said shielding 182a and said cover 24, characterized by a holder (see fig. 3 and 4) for at least one connecting means 182 and at least one flexible pressure means 180 adapted to provide a spring biasing force to develop contact pressure between said connecting means and said cover.

Regarding claim 2, wherein said holder (inside of 22,24 see fig. 3 and 4) comprises means for accommodating at least one of said pressure means.

Regarding claim 3, wherein said connecting means comprises a ferrule and said holder 20 comprises a recess 80 for holding the ferrule.

Regarding claim 9, wherein said pressure means is a flexible clip.

Regarding claim 10, wherein said holder is comprised of at least two releasable parts at least one of said parts being adapted for accommodating said pressure means.

Regarding claim 11, said pressure means 180 is adapted to simultaneously develop contact pressure between said cover and at least a first and a second connecting means.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, Bowen et al. disclose ferrule holder 20 comprising a recess (see fig. 4) for pressure means 180 and an opening (area between 22 and 24, see fig. 4).

Regarding claim 15, said pressure means 180 comprises a spring.

Regarding claim 16, said flexible pressure means 180 is mounted at least partially inside said holder, and wherein said cover at least partially surrounds said holder.

Regarding claim 14, Bowen disclose a method for assembling a cable *connector* according to claim 1, comprising the steps of, positioning said at least one flexible pressure means on said holder 22 such that said connecting means are pushed in a first direction (downward); assembling said cover 24 with said holder such that the connecting means are pushed in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction, (upward to mate), such that a contact pressure develops between said connecting means and said cover.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Bowen et al. in view of Kituka 4,592,612. Bowen et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Bowen et al. disclose the ferrule comprising an inner ferrule

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(182a) and an outer ferrule (182c). Bowen et al. does not disclose the shielding of said cables is at least partially sandwiched between said inner ferrule and said outer ferrule. However, the shielding of cables being at least partially sandwiched between inner ferrule and outer ferrules is well known in the art as evidenced by Kituka. Kituka discloses an inner ferrule (40) and an outer ferrule (40) and the shielding of the cable being sandwiched between the inner ferrule and the outer ferrule. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Bowen et al. by providing the shielding of the cable being sandwiched between the inner ferrule and the outer ferrule as taught by Kituka to provide a shield.

Regarding claim 5, Bowen et al. discloses the inner and outer ferrules being crimped.

Regarding claim 6, said holder is adapted to lock said outer ferrule in said holder (via 276,278).

Regarding claim 7, said contact pressure is developed between said outer ferrule and said cover.

Regarding claim 8, wherein said holder is open to allow electrical contact between said outer ferrule and said cover (via 180).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Roberts et al. 4,747,785.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

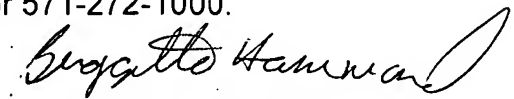
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Brigitte R. Hammond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

January 4, 2008